NEWS from the *Dead*,

Or a faithful and GENUINE

NARRATIVE

Of an extraordinary Combat between *Life* and *Death*, exemplified in the CASE of

WILLIAM DUELL,

One of the MALEFACTORS who was Executed at *TYBURN* on *Monday* the 24th of this Inſtant *November*, for a *Rape*, *Robbery* and *Murder*, and who ſoon after return'd to Life at *Barber-Surgeon's-Hall*, where he had been brought too from the Place of *Execution*, in Order to be Anatomiz'd.

With a true ACCOUNT

Of all the Particulars that *happen'd* to him, and the many ſurprizing Things *he ſaw* during the Interval of Time that paſſed *between* his being turned off at the *Gallows*, and his Recovery to Life.

The whole taken from his own Mouth in Newgate, *where he now lies.*

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BRITISH MUSEUM

News from the *Dead*, &c.

THE uncommon Circumſtances, which have attended the Execution, of one of the condemn'd Criminals, who ſuffer'd at *Tyburn* on *Monday* the 24th Inſtant, are ſo very extraordinary, and ſurprizing, that, we believe, ſome Account thereof will not be unacceptable to the Public; ſince though we often hear of the Recovery of Perſons given over by the Phyſicians, and even kill'd by the News-Papers, we are ſeldom told of the Recovery of any One who has been given over by Dr. *Ketch*. And *William Duell* the Subject of the enſuing Narrative, is, we believe, the only One, who ever underwent his Gutteral Operation, and lived afterwards to tell Tales thereof. Indeed, for a Man to be hang'd up by the Neck for near Half an Hour, and yet have Life remaining in him, and ſo much, as to come to himſelf afterwards, is ſuch an extraordinary Eſcape from

Death, that, we cannot help hoping, that, the Perſon, in Favour of whom ſuch an aſtoniſhing Work of Providence has been wrought, will be reſerved for yet farther Mercy, and, as his Life has been ſaved by a Kind of Miracle, will by a ſincere Repentance make ſome Attonement for his paſt miſpent Life, and eſpecially, for that Scene of complicated Villainy and Barbarity, for which he was deſervedly Executed.

AS theſe Sheets may, perhaps, come into the Hands of ſome, who may not have had the Opportunity to peruſe the Seſſions-Paper, it may not be amiſs, to give a ſhort Account, of the enormous Crime, for which this young and hardened Malefactor ſuffer'd, being no leſs than a Rape, Robbery, and Murder, three Crimes, each of which is capital by the Law; and on this Occaſion, were greatly aggravated, by the uncommon Barbarity that attended the Commiſſion of them. The Fact in ſhort, was this; a poor young Woman, who was travelling down into the Country to her Friends, happening to meet with this *William Duel*, about Evening, near *Acton*, in *Middleſex*, apply'd herſelf to him to direct her to ſome Place, where ſhe might have a Lodging that Night; and he accordingly directed her to a Barn, belonging to an Inhabitant of that Town. Having ſo done, he went to five of his Comrades, young harden'd

harden'd Wretches, as ready for any Miſchief the Devil ſhould put them upon as himſelf, and telling them he had directed a young Woman to Mr. *Life's* Barn for a Lodging, propoſed their going to her, and lying with her. So ſaid, ſo done; they readily agreed, and going to the Place mentioned, found the young Woman, the deſtined Victim of their beaſtly Deſires, laid down upon the Straw to Repoſe, not apprehenſive of any Danger. They ſoon made her acquainted with their villainous Deſigns, and ſhe, not being willing to comply therewith, they each of them forced her, and had their Will of her by Turns. But, not ſatisfied with this, *John Davis*, beat and otherwiſe greatly abuſed the poor Wretch, to make her deliver what little Money ſhe had, and this done, as if that had not been ſufficient, thruſt, as is ſaid, a Broom-ſtick up her Body, and ſo injured her inward Parts, that after languiſhing ſome Hours, in great Miſery, with the Hurts ſhe received, ſhe gave up the Ghoſt; having lived, however, long enough through providence, to give this Account, to ſome who found her in the Barn, of this their barbarous, inhuman, and unnatural Treatment.

FOR this heinous Fact was *William Duell* and *George Curtis*, alias *Tug-mutton*, apprehended, and committed to *Newgate*, as has

ſince been to the *New-Priſon*, *Jack the Captain*, another of their Accomplices; *Curtis* lived not to take his Trial, but died in the Goal on the Morning when he was to have been tried; and *Jack the Captain*, the third, not having been apprehended till after Seſſions, has not yet been brought to the Bar, but remains ſtill in Cuſtody. *Duell* however, having receiv'd his Trial, and been juſtly condemn'd, was on *Monday* the 24th Inſtant, conducted to the Place of Execution, where being tied up, and having hung upon the fatal Tree for twenty two Minutes, he was cut down, being imagined by all around him, to be as certainly dead to all Intents and Purpoſes, as *Jonathan Wild*, of famous, or rather infamous Memory: It happen'd nevertheleſs, that they were all deceiv'd, ſince he is yet alive, and remanded to his old Lodging, and may yet live many Years in all Probability, ſhould his Majeſty think fit, in Conſideration of this his miraculous Eſcape, to make him an Object of his Mercy.

HIS Behaviour in Priſon, both before his Tryal, and after Sentence, was ſuch, as might reaſonably have been expected, from ſuch a young hardened Profligate, who could be capable of ſo barbarous and inhuman a Villainy and Murder; and if, at any Time, he ſhewed any Concern, it ſeemed rather to proceed from

he was deſervedly to ſuffer, than from any ſincere Contrition, or Sorrow, for his having been guilty of ſuch a ſhocking piece of Barbarity. It is thought, however, that ſince his Execution, his Notions are in ſome Meaſure changed; and that, his narrow Eſcape has given him ſuch a Glimpſe of Eternity, as will diſpoſe him to prepare ſeriouſly for a future State, whenever it ſhall pleaſe Providence to require his Soul; inſomuch, that ſhould it pleaſe his Majeſty to extend his Mercy to him, and commute his former Sentence into Tranſportation for Life, he will prove, it is hoped, for the Remainder of his Days, an Example of the moſt ſincere and unfeigned Repentance.

HAVING premiſed thus much, we ſhall now proceed to give a faithful and genuine Account of the Circumſtances that attended his amazing and aſtoniſhing Recovery, from the Jaws of Death, as we had them from his own Mouth, and in the Preſence of many Perſons who may be depended upon, and were Eye-witneſſes thereto; and whoſe Veracity is not to be ſuſpected. Having hung upon the Gallows as has been before obſerved, full two and twenty Minutes, and being judged by every one to be abſolutely dead, he was cut down, and his Body having been pitched upon by the Company of *Chirurgeons*, in order to be Anatomized, was put into a Coach, and convey'd to their Hall, in *Monkwell-ſtreet*, near

near *Cripplegate*, with a Deſign to have been there diſſected next Day. But we leave any one to judge the Surprize and Amazement of the By-ſtanders, when the Body being about to be handed out of the Coach by the Attendants belonging to the Hall, in order to its being waſh'd, and prepared for undergoing that Operation, was heard by ſome of the Aſſiſtants to Groan. They were ſcarce able at firſt to give Credit to their Ears, but imagined it a Deluſion of their Senſes, till they were convinc'd of the contrary, by the ſame Groans being repeated. Then obſerving further, that the Body was yet warm, and Life was ſtill remaining therein, proper Means were uſed by ſome of the *Chirurgeons* who happened to be preſent, for his Recovery; which they finding would prove effectual, Word was ſent of his aſtoniſhing Cataſtrophe, to the Keepers of *Newgate*, as was likewiſe Notice thereof given to the Sheriffs; who, thereupon iſſued out their Warrant a ſecond Time, to the Turnkeys of that Goal, to receive him again into their Cuſtody, and convey him to his old Lodging, whither he was accordingly conducted that Evening.

DURING the Time that all poſſible means were uſing for his Recovery, at *Chirurgeons-Hall*, it was obſerved that he behav'd very artfully, inſomuch, that it remained

mained a Doubt with ſome of the Spectators, whether he had fully recover'd his Senſes, or not, all the while that he continued at that Place; for, whether he was indeed uncapable of ſpeaking, or would not be induced ſo to do, through a falſe Apprehenſion of being again convey'd back directly to the Place of Execution, he never uttered one Word diſtinctly, all the Time he remained at the Hall. It was remark'd, however, that whenſoever any one offered to ſtir his Neck, or mentioned that he would in all probability be hang'd up a ſecond Time, he wou'd fetch deeper Groans than ordinary, as if ſenſible of what was ſaid, and upon ſtirring his Neck, in particular, would cry *Don, Don,* as if ſtriving to ſay *don't, don't,* to prevent their putting him to that Pain, which ſuch a Motion muſt neceſſarily Occaſion.

IT has been given out by ſome Perſons, though we are aſſured falſely, and without any of the leaſt Foundation, that as ſome of the Aſſiſtants were waſhing him (as is cuſtomary before Diſſection) and rubbing him with a Fleſh-bruſh, he lifted up his Hand, and ſtruck one of them a Box on the Ear; whereas, this is ſo far from being true, that he was never waſh'd at all, neither were his Cloths ſo much as pull'd off, during the Time of his being in the Hall.

WHAT

WHAT gave Riſe to this Report was this; that one of the *Chirurgeons* obſerving there was ſtill Life remaining in him, ſaid he would warrant he would ſoon bring him to himſelf, and accordingly, having let him blood in the Arm, and preparing to bleed him under the Tongue, having for that Purpoſe clapt the Lancet in his Mouth, that it might be in Readineſs, *Duell* lifting up his Hand on a ſudden, happened to ſtrike the Lancet, inſomuch, that it cut the *Chirurgeon* in the Lip.

AS little are the Accounts of what he ſaid during his Continuance there to be depended on, being entirely groundleſs, and without the leaſt Foundation; ſince he never pronounced ſo much as one articulate Word whilſt he ſtaid there, nor even till ſome Time after his Removal to *Newgate*. In Effect, he did not appear to have perfectly recovered his Senſes, till he had been ſome Time in that Goal, and conſequently, as far as could be perceived, was far from being capable of giving any Account either of what he had ſuffered, or what a Scene of Horror was diſcloſed to him, during that dreadful Interval, that paſs'd between the Time of his Execution, and his being recovered to his Senſes. We ſhall not venture to impoſe in this Manner upon our Readers, but only give them a faithful Narrative of what he

he ſaid then paſs'd in his Soul, as he related it on *Wedneſday* when he was perfectly ſenſible, to the Perſons whom were preſent at this Account: And this Account we think is the more to be depended upon as it agreſs in a great meaſure with thoſe which have been formerly given by ſome others, who have had the Fortune to undergo the ſame Tryal, being cut down before they were quite Dead by ſome of their Friends, or Relations, after having been their own Executioners. It is as follows.

When firſt he was turned off, he ſays, upon the Cart's driving away, the terrible Shock given his Body by that ſudden Jirk, and his whole Weight bearing upon his Neck, made hisEyes flaſh withFire, and cauſed ſuch an Agony, Confuſion, and Uproar, if we may ſo expreſs ourſelves, in his Senſes as rendered him quite incapable of thinking of that dreadful Change, which he was ſoon in all probability to undergo; and conſequently he was alſo utterly incapable of making any ſuitable Preparation for it, and all he can remember is, that a Thouſand dreadful Spectres, the one more terrible than the other, preſented themſelves to his confuſed Imagination. In this Condition he remained, as far as he can Judge, till the joulting of the Coach brought him to his

Senſes, ſo far as to give him a glimpſe of that Eternity into which he was upon the point of entering. Hell, with all its Terrors, oppened to his View, and Numberleſs Fiends ſeemed to ſtand ready, to catch at his departing Soul, and hurry it into that place of endleſs Torment.

In proportion as he recovered his Senſes more and more, till he was in a great meaſure come to himſelf, this Scene of Horror ſtill increaſed, but nothing ſo exquiſitely dreadful preſented itſelf to his terrified Fancy, as the Image of the unfortunate Woman whom he had Robb'd, Raviſh'd, and Murdered, ſtanding ready to appear againſt him, at the Tribunal of Divine Juſtice, and the Spectre of *Curtis* one of his Accomplices in that Scene of Villany, who died in *Newgate*, howling in Hell's devouring Flames, claiming me as his Companion. It will be more eaſy for our Readers to imagine, than for us to expreſs or deſcribe, what Tortures his guilty Soul muſt feel, whilſt it lay under the Terrors of this dreadful Scene; the Rack, or breaking upon the Wheel, and being left to expire gradually in Torments thereon, wou'd give us but a faint Idea thereof: It is to be hoped it has made ſo deep an Impreſſion upon him who underwent it, that the Remembrance of it will never wear off his Mind,

but

but will cauſe ſuch an entire Change therein, as may prove conducive to the ſaving of his better Part, however it may pleaſe the Divine Providence to diſpoſe of his mortal Body. As little is it in our Power to expreſs or deſcribe the infinite Joy he muſt feel when he once came to be made ſenſible, he was eſcaped, at leaſt, for ſome Time, from that place of endleſs Horrors and Torments and might if it were not his own Fault not only eſcape it for ever, but be made partaker of eternal Happineſs. Gratitude for ſuch an unexpected and undeſerved Reprieve, muſt methink, not only cauſe unutterable Tranſports, but produce ſincere Repentance, and Converſion in the Soul, which has been thought worthy of experiencing ſuch an uncommon Inſtance of the Divine Mercy, and Forbearance; eſpecially as this ſeems to be a kind of earneſt of yet farther and greater Mercies.

In Effect, as far as can be judg'd by outward Appearance, for as to the thoughts of the Heart no one can penetrate into them but that Omniſcient Being, who ſearches the inmoſt Receſſes of the Soul, it has already cauſed no ſmall Change in *William Duel*; for whereas, before his Execution he ſeem'd harden'd in Guilt, Ignorant, Stupid, and Thoughtleſs, he now appears Teacheable Seri-

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ons, and willing to hearken to the ſalutary Admonitions of ſuch as are diſpoſed to talk with him of his future State. Neither is this much to be wondred at, when we conſider that he ſtill labours under the continual and terrifying Apprehenſion of undergoing a ſecond Time the ſame Fate, and being again more effectually Executed, beyond the leaſt hopes of Recovery.

As to the Account given in one of the daily Papers, of his ſeeming inſenſible of his having been Hang'd, and fancying he had been in a Dream, wherein he imagined himſelf in Paradice, and ſaw an Angel who told him his Sins were forgiven, it is highly improbable and incongruous, that whoever can give credit thereto, may as well be brought to believe Tranſubſtantiation. In Effect, that an Angel ſhou'd be ſent on ſuch an Errant to a hardened Criminal, who at his Execution ſhew'd but very ſmall, if any Marks of a ſincere Repentance for his paſt miſpent Life, is altogether as unlikely, as a Body which had undergone ſuch a ſevere Shook as being turned off from the Gallows, and conſequently having the ſtreſs of its whole Weight, which was doubled at firſt by that ſudden jerk upon the *Vertebræ* of the Neck, which muſt of Courſe be prodigiouſly ſtrained in their Articulation, if not

entirely

entirely diſlocated, ſhou'd be ſo entirely free from, and inſenſible of Pain as to leave the Soul ſo amazingly forgetful as not to remember its having been Hang'd, (which muſt neceſſarily be affected by the Sufferings of the Body) at liberty to imagine itſelf in Paradice: We cannot help therefore, either believing this Story entirely Apocraphal, or elſe concluding that if it is Genuine, the dread of undergoing a ſecond Execution has turned the the Brain of the poor Wretch; not but that 'tis poſſible that the Divine Mercy which has already ſo Miraculouſly preſerved him, might after ſhewing him a glimpſe of the Terrors of Hell, and the puniſhment he juſtly deſerved, give him likewiſe a Proſpect and of the Joys of Paradiſe to the end that being terrified by the One, and allured by the Other, he might improve the Remainder of that Life which is granted to him, to the working out his own Salvation with Fear and Trembling.

However that be, for we ſhall not pretend to decide it; a manifeſt Difference is to be perceived in *William Duel*'s Behavionr before and ſince his Execution; he being no more that hardened Profligate he was before that remarkable Deliverance. His Mouth was then full of Oaths, Curſes, and Blaſphemies; his Diſcourſe ſince has been Modeſt and

and Serious; and whereas before he had no Thought of a future State, he has been ſince neither altogether without Apprehenſion of Hell's Torments, nor without hopes of eternal Happineſs.

It is indeed hardly to be thought, but that ſuch a narrow Eſcape, muſt cauſe ſome Alteration even in the moſt obdurate and harden'd Sinner; and cauſe him to take ſome ſerious Reſolution to ſpend the Remainder of his Days in a quite different manner than that which was ſo near bringing him to ſuch a deplorable and ignominious End. *Duell* indeed it muſt be confeſs'd, is a poor ignorant and ſtupid Wretch, as can well be met with, but if he had no other Senſes, he certainly has the Senſe of Feeling; and that alone were his Life to be ſpared, wou'd be, one wou'd think, ſufficient to deter him from purſuing ſuch Courſes, as muſt bring him a ſecond Time to make the ſame painful and dreadful Experiment: We wiſh however that the numbers of People whom Curioſity may lead to ſee him, and the many trifling Queſtions they will of Courſe put to him, may not in a great meaſure wear off the ſeri-ous Impreſſion, his almoſt miraculous Recovery at firſt made upon him.

In Effect cou'd we be perſuaded to believe

lieve the romantick Reports ſpread abroad, and the odd Accounts given in ſome Papers, we ſhou'd be apt to imagine there cou'd be no great dependence on his Amendment for the future, ſhou'd his Life be ſpared; but we can by no means bring ourſelves to give any Credit thereunto; for we think it not only highly improbable, but utterly impoſſible for any Man to Hang two and twenty Minutes, be cut down and again brought to himſelf, ſo far as to have the perfect uſe of his Senſes, and yet not remember one Circumſtance of his Execution, or of any Thing that had happened to him in Conſequence thereof.

For to ſay no more, can any one who knows what a Concourſe of People who always attend our public Executions in this great City, what a continual Noiſe there is in all the Streets through which the condemn'd Criminals paſs, and what horrid tumultuous proceedings and uproars there always are at the fatal Tree, believe that a Man to all appearance in his Senſes (for we don't find ever by the Ordinary's Account but he retained them to the very laſt) cou'd be drawn in an open Cart from *Newgate* to *Tyburn*, and be made a public Spectacle to ſuch immenſe Crouds; cou'd join at the Tree in ſome Acts of Devotion with the Miniſter and his Fellow Sufferers; cou'd take his laſt leave

as he imagined, there of his Parent, with Floods of Tears, and the deepeſt Sorrow, and yet ſhou'd afterwards not Remember one Syllable of any Thing that had paſt on that Occaſion, or that had befallen him? As little is it to believed that he ſhou'd not ſo much as remember his having ſtirr'd out of *Newgate*, when the Malefactors always have their Fetters knock'd off, before they are put into the *Cart*, which Opetation alone puts them to very great Pain.

If we lived in the Time of the Philoſopher *Pythagoras*, who taught his Followers that the Souls of Men tranſmigrated after Death, out of one Body into another, according to their reſpective Deeds, and the Tenor of their paſt Lives; but that every Soul, before it was ſuffered to animate a new Body, and return again into the World, was obliged to drink a Draught of the Water of the River *Lethe*; whoſe Streams waſh'd the Regions of the inviſible World, and had the Virtue to make every one who taſted thereof, forget all that had ever happened to them during the whole Courſe of their Lives; if we ſay, we happen'd to live in his Days or follow'd his Syſtem, we might poſſibly be brought to believe ſuch idle Tales; but as Things are now circumſtanced, we muſt ask pardon, if we can give no Manner of Credit thereto, whoever be the Reporter or Voucher of them.

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WHAT makes this unaccountable Forgetfulneſs of *William Duell*, with Regard to what one ſhould think ought to have made the deepeſt Impreſſion upon his Mind is, that it is not pretended, but that he remembers other trifling Things very well, tho' he cannot recollect one Syllable of what ought to have had the greateſt Effect upon his Memory: In ſhort, tho' divers other Perſons who have been hang'd, and cut down before they were quite dead, have been able to give little or no Account of what happen'd to them, or what they felt, during the Time of their being tied up, we never heard of any, the moſt ſtupid of them, who ever pretended to carry their Oblivion ſo far, as to forget their having been hang'd; neither did we ever before know there was ſuch a Virtue in a Hempen Neckcloth.

WE believe our Readers muſt be by this Time pretty well convinced, that there cannot be the leaſt Foundation for ſuch idle Tales, ſince admitting them to be true, we muſt believe that to have happen'd to *Duell*, which never before befell any Man, Woman, or Child, ſince the Creation, unleſs they were Lunatick, and *Non Compos Mentis*, which is not pretended to be the Caſe of this Malefactor: Beſides, the extream Pain he muſt neceſſarily have felt when

he began to come to himſelf, in his **Neck**, and under his Ear, from the violent Strain the one muſt ſuffer, by bearing the Weight of his whole Body ſuſpended thereon, and the grievous Preſſure of the other muſt undergo, through the drawing of the Slip-Knot ſo exceeding tight, as it muſt have been drawn, by that Weight, could not fail of reminding him to what Cauſe thoſe Complaints were owing.

IT does not appear upon his Trial, that this unhappy Criminal was able to make the leaſt Defence; nay, as if Providence had purpoſely infatuated him, he not only confeſſed the Fact for which he was afterwards condemn'd, upon Examination before Sir *Joſeph Ayloffe*, but alſo ſigned his own Confeſſion, which in a manner, render'd it unneceſſary to try him. It muſt be allow'd however, in Extenuation of his Crime, that it does not appear, he was perſonally guilty of any ſuch Barbarity and Inhumanity, as *George Curtis*, otherwiſe *Tug-mutton*, who died in *Newgate*, and *John Davis* exerciſed upon her; neither does it appear, that he had any Hand in robbing her of what little ſhe had; on the contrary, when the others had perpetrated all their Villainy, and propoſed going to drink together afterwards, they would not let him go with them, becauſe he had no Money.

IF what he ſaid likewiſe, to the Ordinary of *Newgate* before his Execution, be Matter of Fact, it will be a farther Alleviation of his Guilt, that having ſome Way or other provoked his Father, he turn'd him out of Doors that very Evening; when he met the unfortunate Woman, who afterwards fell a Victim to the brutal Paſſion and Barbarity of himſelf, and his Accomplices. What inhances his Guilt the moſt is, that he was the primary Occaſion of the whole Tragedy, as his Comrades did not know any Thing of the Woman's being in the Barn, till he acquainted them therewith; though it does not appear even then, that he was apprehenſive of any ill Conſequences from telling them this, ſince he ſays in his Examination before Sir *Joſeph Ayloffe*, that having told it only to *John James*, otherwiſe *Jack the Captain* now in Cuſtody, they all whiſpered together but himſelf, after which, *George Curtis*, otherwiſe *Tugmutton*, the moſt brutal of them all, ſaid, *He would go and ſhew them a Girl in a Barn*, whereupon they all agreed to go together, and the fatal Conſequences we have before-mention'd, enſued.

BATING this one Crime for which he has already ſuffer'd, and for which he may in all Probability ſuffer again, we don't

find that he was notoriouſly wicked, or at leaſt, that he was guilty of any capital Crimes; he was indeed very ignorant, a little obſtinate in his Temper, and given to Idleneſs, which made him averſe to learning his Father's Trade of Shoemaking, as not loving Confinement; and what this unhappy Temper might have brought him to in Time, no one knows; but as he is yet but very young, not being above ſeventeen Years of Age, we don't find he was guilty of any notorious wicked Courſes; but on the contrary, was in ſome Meaſure aſſiſtant to his Parents, by ſparing them part of what he got, by riding Horſes, and jobbing about at Farmer's or Gentlemen's Houſes.

WE have already obſerv'd, that he was ignorant and obſtinate, to which was joined another ill Quality of being naturally very contentious; and of this he gave a remarkable Inſtance in his Behaviour at *Newgate*, before his Execution; for notwithſtanding he was under ſuch unhappy Circumſtances, as one wou'd think, ſhould be ſufficient to put other Thoughts in his Head, he quarrel'd ſo violently with *William Meers*, another of the Malefactors, who was executed at the ſame Time with him, that they proceeded ſo far as to challenge each other to fight, and were going that Way to decide their Difference, but that they were prevented by the Interpoſition of the *Ordinary*,

nary, who reprimanding them ſeverely, brought them to a more peaceable Diſpoſition. He was likewiſe very diſingenious; for notwithſtanding he had made an ample Confeſſion upon his firſt Examination, and had even ſigned it, he would not directly own his Guilt, even after Condemnation, till the *Dead-Warrant* coming down, he with Tears in his Eyes, confeſſed himſelf guilty of the Rape, Robbery, and Murder: Nevertheleſs he again retracted this Confeſſion at the Place of Execution, and ſaid, he forgave all thoſe who had ſworn falſely againſt him, thereby inſinuating as if he was to ſuffer wrongfully.

UPON the whole, all the Tenour of his Behaviour before his Execution, was inconſiſtent, wavering, giddy, and contradictory; ſince his Revival it has been more modeſt and ſerious, as has been before obſerv'd, and we hope will produce ſuch Fruit as may be effectual for his future Welfare, however it may pleaſe Heaven to diſpoſe of him; at leaſt we are well aſſured, that after ſuch uncommon Mercy receiv'd, and ſuch an extraordinary Eſcape, ſhould he return like a Dog to the Vomit, Mire, he will be more inexcuſable, and have more to anſwer for than any other Man alive: In Effect, the leaſt Share of Gratitude, Thankfulneſs,

neſs, or Reflection, muſt give him an entire new Turn of Thought, and produce a ſincere Repentance, and thorough Reformation. Add to this, that nothing but the Proſpect of ſuch an Amendment, can be an Inducement to any one to repreſent him to the King, as an Object of the Royal Mercy, as having already undergone all the ſcandalous and painful Part of the Puniſhment the Law requires.

HAVING thus given our Readers the moſt circumſtantial and well grounded Information, we can poſſibly get of all the Particulars, which have attended the Tryal, and Execution, of this unhappy Maleſactor, as alſo of his Behaviour in *Newgate*, both before and ſince his Suffering at the fatal Tree; we ſhall now proceed to Account, in the moſt intelligible Manner we well can, to ſuch Perſons as are not Converſant in Anatomy, how it was poſſible for this young Criminal, to hang in the Air, by the Neck, for Twenty-two Minutes; was afterwards cut down for dead, and convey'd in a Coach as ſuch, from *Tyburn* to *Chirurgeons-Hall*, in *Monkwell-Street* near *Cripplegate*, not ſhewing any Signs of Life remaining in him; and yet afterwards came to himſelf, and be ſo perfectly recovered, as to be capable, in all probability, if no Accident intervenes to cut his Thread of

Life,

Life, of being a living Monument of Mercy for many Years.

IN Order to ſet this in a clear Light, we muſt firſt obſerve, that, when a Criminal is hang'd, the whole Weight of the Body bearing up on the Neck, and diſplacing the Bones, and the binding of the Halter which is drawn as tight as poſſible, by that Weight, which is at firſt doubled by the ſudden Jerk of the Cart's driving away, and the Struggles of the unfortunate Sufferers in their dying Agonies, fail of ſtopping the Reſpiration; and every one knows, when the Breath is once ſtopt for any Time, Death muſt neceſſarily follow. But, if the Bones of the Neck are ſo ſtrongly knit together, as to be able to ſuſtain that Weight without being diſplaced, or diſjointed; and the Wind-Pipe is likewiſe of ſo tough a Conſiſtence as to be able to reſiſt the Compreſſion of the Halter, ſo far as to leave Paſſage for any, even the ſmalleſt portion of Breath, though ſo little as to be entirely imperceptible, it will not ſeem a Miracle, though, we muſt confeſs, it is ſomething uncommon, and extraordinary, if, when that Compreſſion, and the outward Force ceaſes, upon the Perſon's being cut down, and the Halter taken off, that principle of Life, which does not quit the Body, without the greateſt Reluctance, aud Conſtraint, and is yet Subſiſting in the

ſmall

ſmall remaining, though imperceptible, portion of Breath, making its utmoſt Efforts to recover itſelf, and animate its priſtine Habitation, not meeting at the ſame Time with the ſame Obſtructions as before, ſhould by Degrees ſurmount all Impediments, and appear again in full Vigour; juſt as a Fire which has been imagined to be out for ſome Hours, and of which not a Spark is to be ſeen, will frequently rekindle, and flame up again as bright as ever.

THAT it is only from the ſtoping of the Reſpiration, or Breath, Haning becomes Mortal, will appear evidently to every One, who will but reflect upon the Operation, perform'd ſome Years ago, by an ingenious young Chirurgeon, upon a condemn'd Criminal, with Deſign to have ſaved his Life, and evaded the Law: This was the making an Inciſion in the Wind-Pipe, introducing a Silver Pipe therein, and thereby preſerving a free Paſſage for his Breath it being impoſſible for the Halter ſo far to compreſs the Pipe, as not to leave Room for Reſpiration. Accordingly, it is well known, this Operation would have had the deſired Effect; but that the Perſons, intruſted with the Secret, being ignorant, and not knowing how to manage the Criminal, after he was cut down, delayed too long, before they uſed proper Means to recover him; for it is very certain, that he

fetch'd

fetch'd loud Groans, and ſhew'd very ſtrong Signs of Life, after he was convey'd into a Houſe, and put into a Bed: By their Miſmanagement therefore alone, the Scheme was defeated, and it became a common Jeſt, that the poor Wretch *had his Throat cut, to ſave his Life, but was diſappointed in his Deſign.* Does not every one ſee from hence, that if the Windpipe has a ſufficient natural Strength to reſiſt the Compreſſion of the Halter, equally with the Silver Pipe, the ſame Cauſe muſt neceſſarily produce the ſame Effect, and conſequently Life may be equally preſerved by either of theſe Means.

THAT ſuch Accidents do not happen more frequently, is no manner of Wonder; ſufficient Care being generally taken to prevent them, by ſeeing that the Criminals are effectually dead to all Intents and Purpoſes; but, that they happened before, we have very few Inſtances, but to mention the Caſe of *Half-hang'd Smith*, whom ſeveral People yet living may have known, and who ſurvived his Execution many Years, and as we remember to have met with, a very remarkable Story, of ſuch a Revival, it may not prove unacceptable, to ſuch of our Readers as are Strangers thereto; which was as follows.

A Malefactor, who had been condemn'd to dye, for ſome capital Offence, and was accordingly executed; having hung the uſual Time, his Body was delivered to his Friends, in order for his Interment: Being brought away for that purpoſe, one of them obſerved ſome Signs in Life in him, and according uſed the proper Means for his Recovery, which proved effectually; at the ſame Time taking all poſſible Care that it ſhould not get Air.

THE Man being come to himſelf, diſgniſed himſelf for ſome Time, and removed to ſome Diſtance from his former Habitation; however, at laſt, far from taking warning by his narrow Eſcape, he returned to his old evil Courſes, and robb'd upon the High-way. One Day amongſt the Reſt, as he was in Queſt of Booty, who ſhould unfortunately fall into his Clutches, but a Bailiff, whoſe Priſoner he had formerly been, and who, having then uſed him but ſcurvily, we may be ſure was not to expect much Favour. Accordingly, our Free-booter having accoſted the Catch-pole with the uſual Words of Command, *Stand and Deliver*, accompanied with a Volley of Oaths and Curſes, the Officer looking him wiſhfully in the Face, asked him whether his Name was not ſo and ſo, which the other anſwering

wering in the Affirmative, he again ask'd him, *Why, did not I ſee you hanged at ſuch a Time? Yes, Mr. Man-Eater*, replied the Highwayman, *but you ſee I am come to life again, to be revenged on ſuch a Raſcal as you, ſo deliver immediately, without any more prating, or I will deliver a Brace of Balls through your Loggerhead.* The poor Catchpole ſeeing no other Remedy, ſubmitted at laſt with Reluctance, and ſurrender'd his *Mammon*, which not being ſufficient to mollify our lawleſs Levier of Contribution, he diſmounted him, turned his Horſe looſe, and left him to make the beſt of a bad Market.

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